

VISITORS CENTER

HOURS

Preserve Site: Monday – Sunday, 7 a.m. – dusk.

Visitors Center: Wednesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



For more information about the Fernald Preserve, contact:

U.S. Department of Energy

Fernald Preserve

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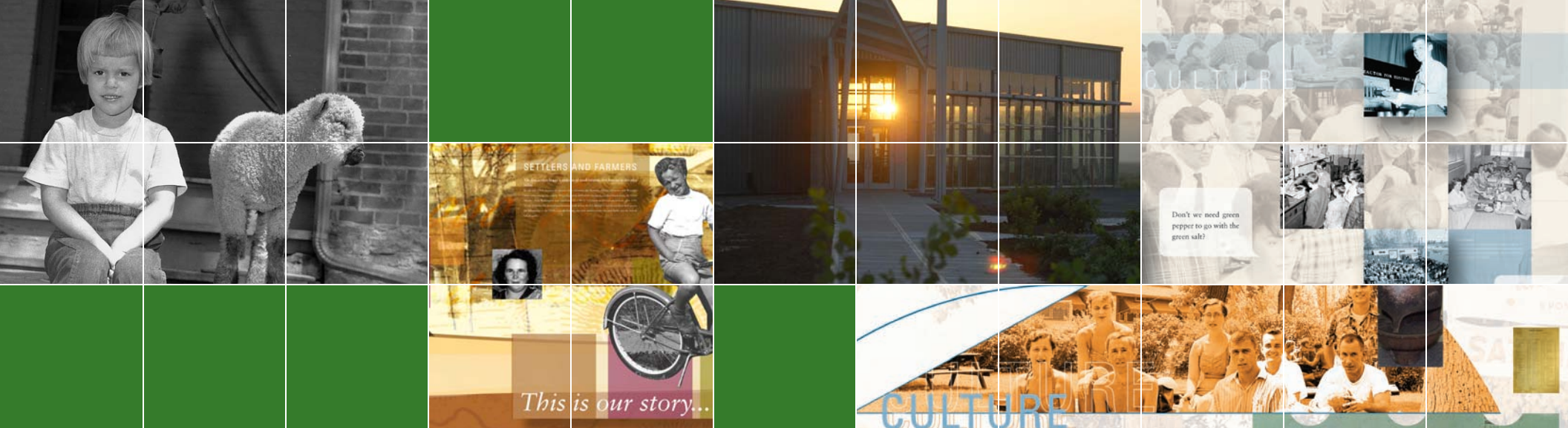
The Visitors Center is a reconfigured warehouse located on the Fernald Preserve. The exhibits tell the history of Fernald and will become an important educational resource for the surrounding area.

educational resources for the generations



Fernald Preserve

CULTURAL RESOURCE



The Fernald Preserve Visitors Center was completed in the summer of 2008. Respecting the vision of Fernald's neighbors and local communities, the Visitors Center tells the story of Fernald and is well on its way to becoming an important educational resource.

The Fernald property once contained a uranium-processing facility that served as the first link in America's nuclear weapons production cycle. Uranium production ended at Fernald in 1989 and was followed by a \$4.4-billion environmental cleanup and ecological restoration. The site has been cleaned to standards established by the community and approved by the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies as being protective of human health and the environment, and is now managed by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management.

The Visitors Center is a warehouse that has been redesigned in cooperation with the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP). The result is a major step toward realizing the desire to turn the Fernald property into a community asset.

The exhibits in the Visitors Center depict the diverse history of the site and tell the story from the time of Native Americans, to the arrival of settlers and farmers, to the uranium-processing years, to the eventual environmental cleanup and the legacy management period that continues today.

The Visitors Center was planned and constructed in a manner to achieve certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, which sponsors the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system,

a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. Advantages to LEED-certified buildings are lower operating and maintenance costs, a high degree of energy and water efficiency, and a healthy and safe environment. Environmentally friendly features of the building include a ground source heat pump heating and cooling system and a biowetland, where water, plants, microorganisms, and the environment (sun, soil, and air) interact to treat wastewater.

A fully equipped meeting room is available for use by community and school groups. Visits to the site will be exceptional educational opportunities for classes studying a number of subjects, ranging from history to the life sciences.